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Westminster, Dec. 17.

HER Majesty came this day to the House of Peers, attended with the usual Solemnity, and being seated on the Throne in Her Royal Robes, Sir *David Mitchell*, Gentleman Usher of the Black-Rod, was sent with a Message to the House of Commons, requiring their Attendance in the House of Peers, whither they came accordingly; and Her Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to

An Act for Granting an Aid to Her Majesty by a Land Tax, to be raised in the Year One thousand seven hundred and four.

After which Her Majesty made the following most Gracious Speech to both Houses.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Think it proper upon this Occasion to acquaint you, That I have had Unquestionable Informations of very Ill Practices and Designs carried on in Scotland, *by Emissaries from* France, *which might have proved extreamly Dangerous to the Peace of these Kingdoms, as you will see by the Particulars, which shall be laid before you as soon as the several Examinations relating to this Matter can be fully Perfected, and made Publick without Prejudice: In the mean time, I make no Doubt, but by this Seasonable Discovery, I shall be able to give such Directions for Our Security, as will Effectually prevent any Ill Consequences from these Pernicious Designs.*

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I am very Sensible of your great Readiness and Affection for the Publick Service, by presenting Me so early in the Sessions with a considerable Part of your Supplies; I depend entirely upon your Continuing with the same Zeal to dispatch the Remainder of them, that so We may be prepared to give the speediest Assistance to Our Allies, and to defeat the Malicious Designs of Our Enemies; who cannot be more Industrious to Contrive the Ruine of this Kingdom, and of the Protestant Religion, than I shall always be Vigilant and Careful, both for their present Preservation, and for their future Security.

Genoua, November 25. *N. S.* The Marquis *de Visconti*, with the Detachment under his Command, consisting of about 800 Horse, and 400 Foot, has at length joined the Duke of *Savoy*'s Forces, which he performed in the following manner; Finding that the *French* had secured all the Passes between *Ricco* (where our former Advices left him encamped) and the Frontiers of *Savoy*, he made a feint March towards the *Parmesan*, and being informed that the Enemy had thereupon drawn their Forces that way, in order to cut off his Retreat, and had left the Passes to *Savoy* unguarded, he immediately faced about, and taking his way by *Voltry*, *Arenzana*, and *Arittola*, arrived in two days March in the Duke of *Savoy*'s Territories, where he was joined by his Royal Highness's Troops under the Marquis *de Parella*, to the great Mortification of the *French*, who were so secure that these *German* Forces could not escape out of their hands, that they had provided 4 Men of War from *Toulon*, which arrived at *Porto Spezzie* the 19th Instant, on purpose to carry the Prisoners to *France*.

Copenhagen, Dec. 11. We had here on the 8th Instant at night a violent Storm of Wind and Rain from the South East, insomuch that several of our Men of War, which lie moored within a wet Dock, ran foul of one another, though without receiving any considerable Damage. They write from *Bergen* in *Norway*, That 3 *Dutch* homeward bound *East-India* Ships are lately arrived on that Coast, together with a *West-India* Ship belonging to the Merchants of this City.

Vienna, Dec. 12. On the 8th Instant we had a Report that the Rebels were advancing this way, which put the Inhabitants of our Suburbs under such Consternation, that for two or three days they were removing themselves and their Effects within our Walls, for their better Security. The Rebels had indeed passed the River *Waag* at *Zeret*, but have yet made no further Progress, being kept in awe by the Count *de Schlick*, who has posted himself at *Presbourg*, and has been joined there by the Forces under Colonel *Virmont*. On the 9th one of his Parties of 1200 Men met with 4000 Rebels not far from *Presbourg*, whom they attacked, notwithstanding the inequality of their numbers, killed 300 of them on the spot, took a great many Prisoners, and the rest were dispersed. Yesterday an Order was published here, enjoining all People to return quietly to their Houses, and to the Exercise of their several Trades and Professions. This Alarm, as groundless as it was, has however had this good effect, that most of the Nobility of *Austria*, with their Land Marshal Count *Traun*, are mounted on Horseback to assemble their Vassals on the Borders of *Moravia*, and Lines will be drawn and Guards placed along those Frontiers, to prevent the Rebels Incursions. Prince *Eugene* went hence this morning to *Presbourg*, to encourage the Inhabitants and Soldiers, and make the necessary Dispositions for suppressing this Rebellion. Some think he has Instructions to make Offers to the Rebels of a general Pardon, and Satisfaction upon several of their Grievances, provided they will abandon *Ragotzky* and his Adherents. His Highness is not to stay there above 8 or 10 days; and it is said the Command of the Forces on that side will be given to General *Heister* and Lieutenant-General *Palfy*. The Count *de Frise*, in Consideration of the brave Defence he made in the Town of *Landau*, whereof he was Governor, is advanced to the Command of a Lieutenant-General of Foot.

Zurich, Dec. 15. The General Diet of the Cantons of *Switzerland* is assembled at *Baden*, and Monsieur *Mellarede*, Envoy of the Duke of *Savoy*, had Audience of them yesterday. The Cantons of *Berne* and *Fribourg*, which border upon the Dutchy of *Savoy*, did, before the Diet began, send a joint Deputation to the Marshal *de Tesse*, to desire him not to give any Disturbance in their Neighbourhood; and it is believed those Cantons, and that of *Zurich*, will interpose for a Neutrality for *Savoy*. There is at the Diet a Deputy from *Constance*, to desire also the Mediation of the Cantons, in order to obtain a Neutrality for the Towns on the Lake of *Constance*. Levies are making with very good Success in some of the Cantons for the Service of the Duke of *Savoy*. Letters from *Alsace* of the 11th Instant say, the *French* Forces are going into Winter Quarters; 9000 Foot and two Regiments of Horse are to remain in *Landau*, and the Garisons of Fort *Louis* and other Places on that side are also to be very numerous; 4 Regiments of Horse and 2 of Dragoons are to quarter in the *Upper Alsace*: The two Regiments last mentioned make together but 400 Men, the rest having been killed in the late Action near *Spire*; They are to quarter at *Huningen*, to be recruited there, and the *French* King has promised a Pardon to any Deserter that shall come and list himself in either of them. The Marshal *de Tallard* is to remain this Winter at *Strasbourg*. The Allies have posted a good number of Troops at *Daxland*, and other Places along the *Rhine*, to hinder the Enemy from passing over that River.

Nancy, Dec. 16. Our Advices from *Paris* are of the 12th Instant, and give an Account, That they had a terrible Storm on the 8th, which had done great Damage in that City and the neighbouring Country; but they had not yet received an Account of what Loss they may have sustained at Sea. The Count *de Toulouse* was returned to the *French* Court from *Thoulon*, as were also the Marshals *de Villars* and *Tallard* from *Germany*.

Lisle, Dec. 17. We have an Account from *Antwerp*, That the late Storm has done a great deal of Mischief to that Town, having damaged many of their Churches, Houses and other Buildings, ruined their Bridge of Boats on the *Scheld*, and driven ashore about 30 Vessels belonging to that Place, which have been staved to pieces. The Loss sustained by the Inhabitants of *Ghent*, *Louvain*, *Brussels*, and the other Towns of the *Spanish Netherlands*, amounts to many Millions of Florins; and the Damage which the Wind has done to those who live in the open Country is proportionably greater.

Hague, Dec. 25. *N. S.* The Damage sustained in the late Storm by the Ships in the *Maese*, which are designed for *Portugal*, is wholly repaired, and they are ready to put to Sea as soon as the Wind will permit; whereof Sir *George Rooke* has given notice to the King of *Spain*, who has ordered every thing to be in a readiness for his going on board. We have yet no Account of Admiral *Callemberg*'s Squadron. The *Ru-*